

permit DTC to obtain access to ACATS on behalf of its participants.¹³ NSCC's agreement with DTC will permit ACATS to be used for the transfer of accounts between two DTC participants or between a DTC participant and an NSCC member.

Linkage Agreements. NSCC currently has an agreement in place with OCC regarding the transfer of options positions within customer accounts being transferred pursuant to ACATS. The agreement provides that NSCC may send instructions to OCC for the delivery and receipt of options positions on behalf of ACATS participants that are members of NSCC as well as of OCC.

In order to broaden the types of assets which can be transferred through ACATS based on instructions from NSCC, the proposed rule change will permit NSCC to establish links with other registered clearing agencies ("RCA"), such as DTC, PTC and GSCC. Once an agreement has been reached with the applicable RCA, to the extent a transfer involves an asset position eligible for delivery at such RCA and both the receiving member and delivering member have an account there, NSCC will issue instructions to the applicable RCA indicating the delivering or receiving participant and the quantity of assets to be delivered and received. Such instructions shall not specify a value unless the transfer is between two members of NSCC and the assets to be transferred are government securities (where a nominal value shall be specified)¹⁴ or mortgage-backed securities. If the assets are mortgage-backed securities, on settlement date NSCC will debit the deliverer the value and credit the receiver the value of the assets.

Indemnification Provision

The proposed rule change will include indemnification provisions similar to those currently in use by users of ACATS. While the revised rule will include such provisions, it will not preclude participants from entering into separate indemnification arrangements which are broader than those contained in the rule.

NSCC believes that the proposed rule change is consistent with Section 17A(b)(3)(F) because it will facilitate the prompt and accurate clearance and settlement of securities transactions

and, in general, protect investors and the public interest.¹⁵

(B) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Burden on Competition

NSCC does not believe that the proposed rule change will have an impact on or impose a burden on competition.

(C) Self-Regulatory Organization's Statement on Comments on the Proposed Rule Change Received From Members, Participants, or Others

Written comments relating to the proposed rule change have not yet been solicited or received. NSCC will notify the Commission of any written comments received by NSCC.

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within thirty-five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to ninety days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which NSCC consents, the Commission will:

(A) by order approve such rule filing or

(B) institute proceedings to determine whether the rule filing should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statement with respect to the rule filing that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the rule filing between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying in the Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of NSCC. All submissions should refer to the File No. SR-NSCC-98-06 and should be submitted by October 26, 1998.

For the Commission by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,

Deputy Secretary.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region I Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Region I Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Hartford, Connecticut will hold a public meeting at 8:30 a.m., on Monday, October 19, 1998, Hartford, District Office, 330 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marie A. Record, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 330 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, (860) 240-4700.

Shirl Thomas,

Director, External Affairs.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region V District Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Region V District Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, will hold a public meeting on November 6, 1998 at 11:30 a.m., at the Federal Reserve Bank, 90 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Edward A. Daum, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 610-C Butler Square, 100 North Sixth Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403, (612) 370-2306.

Shirl Thomas,

Director, External Affairs.

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¹³ This agreement will be similar to the current agreement between NSCC and DTC regarding DTC's access to NSCC's mutual funds services.

¹⁴ On June 17, 1998, NSCC amended the proposed rule change (File No. NSCC-98-06) to include the transfer of government securities where a nominal value is specified.

¹⁵ 15 U.S.C. 78q-1(b)(3)(F).

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).